



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The August 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.9 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate is up one-tenth of a percentage point from the July 2002 rate of 4.8 percent, and up six-tenths of a percentage point from the August 2001 rate of 4.3 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from July to August by 1,100 individuals. An increase of 200 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 12,200 in July to 12,400 in August. The decrease in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 900 individuals from July to August 2002; compared to 2001, there was a net increase of 400 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the August 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: August 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

| | Civilian Labor Force | Number Unem- ployed | Percent Unem- ployed | Number Employed |
|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Ada | 181,224 | 7,592 | 4.2 | 173,632 |
| Adams | 1,749 | 239 | 13.7 | 1,510 |
| Boise | 2,862 | 171 | 6.0 | 2,691 |
| Canyon | 70,165 | 4,771 | 6.8 | 65,393 |
| Elmore | 10,001 | 714 | 7.1 | 9,287 |
| Gem | 6,233 | 524 | 8.4 | 5,709 |
| Owyhee | 4,922 | 265 | 5.4 | 4,657 |
| Payette | 9,574 | 886 | 9.3 | 8,687 |
| Valley | 3,972 | 349 | 8.8 | 3,623 |
| Washington | 4,302 | 393 | 9.1 | 3,909 |
| Statewide | 690,126 | 36,876 | 5.3 | 653,250 |

About 300 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were lost in the Boise City MSA between July and August 2002, while there was a decrease of 1,000 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since August 2001. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a loss of 100 jobs between

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties**

| | August 2002* | July 2002 | August 2001 | % Change Last Month | Last Year |
|--|-----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE | | | | | |
| Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 251,400 | 252,300 | 251,000 | -0.4 | 0.2 |
| Unemployment | 12,400 | 12,200 | 10,700 | 1.6 | 15.9 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.3 | | |
| Total Employment | 239,000 | 240,100 | 240,300 | -0.5 | -0.5 |
| Unadjusted | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 253,800 | 255,400 | 253,400 | -0.6 | 0.2 |
| Unemployment | 11,500 | 11,800 | 9,900 | -2.5 | 16.2 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 4.5 | 4.6 | 3.9 | | |
| Total Employment | 242,300 | 243,600 | 243,500 | -0.5 | -0.5 |
| JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK | | | | | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** | 230,800 | 231,100 | 231,800 | -0.1 | -0.4 |
| GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES | | | | | |
| Construction & Mining | 50,800 | 50,900 | 53,900 | -0.2 | -5.8 |
| Manufacturing | 16,100 | 16,200 | 17,300 | -0.6 | -6.9 |
| Durable Goods | 34,700 | 34,700 | 36,600 | 0.0 | -5.2 |
| Lumber & Wood Products | 26,400 | 26,400 | 28,200 | 0.0 | -6.4 |
| Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,200 | 0.0 | -3.1 |
| Other Lumber & Wood Products | 800 | 800 | 900 | 0.0 | -11.1 |
| Fabricated Metal Products | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip. | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp. | 7,300 | 7,300 | 7,900 | 0.0 | -7.6 |
| Transportation Equipment | 11,300 | 11,300 | 12,300 | 0.0 | -8.1 |
| Other Durable Goods | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,700 | 0.0 | 5.9 |
| Nondurable Goods | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,900 | 0.0 | -10.5 |
| Food & Kindred Products | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,400 | 0.0 | -1.2 |
| Canned Cured & Frozen Foods | 5,500 | 5,600 | 5,600 | -1.8 | -1.8 |
| Printing, Pub & Allied Products | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 0.0 | -5.9 |
| Other Nondurable Goods | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES | 900 | 800 | 900 | 12.5 | 0.0 |
| Trans., Comm., & Public Utilities | 180,000 | 180,200 | 177,900 | -0.1 | 1.2 |
| Transportation | 12,300 | 12,400 | 12,200 | -0.8 | 0.8 |
| Comm. & Elec. Gas & Sanitary Svcs. | 6,800 | 6,900 | 7,000 | -1.4 | -2.9 |
| Trade | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,200 | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| Wholesale Trade | 57,200 | 56,900 | 56,900 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Durable Goods | 13,000 | 13,000 | 12,700 | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| Nondurable Goods | 7,900 | 8,000 | 7,800 | -1.3 | 1.3 |
| Retail Trade | 5,100 | 5,000 | 4,900 | 2.0 | 4.1 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 44,200 | 43,900 | 44,200 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Foods Stores | 5,900 | 5,700 | 5,600 | 3.5 | 5.4 |
| Eating & Drinking Places | 7,400 | 7,500 | 7,700 | -1.3 | -3.9 |
| Other Retail Trade | 15,700 | 15,700 | 15,700 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 15,200 | 15,000 | 15,200 | 1.3 | 0.0 |
| Services | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,700 | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Business Services | 64,300 | 64,300 | 63,700 | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Health Services | 13,800 | 13,700 | 15,300 | 0.7 | -9.8 |
| Hospitals | 19,300 | 19,200 | 18,400 | 0.5 | 4.9 |
| Eng. Acct., Res, Mgmt., & Related | 9,200 | 9,200 | 8,500 | 0.0 | 8.2 |
| Other Services | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,300 | 0.0 | 7.5 |
| Government | 25,500 | 25,700 | 24,700 | -0.8 | 3.2 |
| Federal Government | 34,400 | 34,800 | 33,400 | -1.1 | 3.0 |
| State Government | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,200 | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| Education | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,700 | 0.0 | -0.8 |
| Administration | 3,600 | 3,600 | 3,500 | 0.0 | 2.9 |
| Local Government | 9,000 | 9,000 | 9,200 | 0.0 | -2.2 |
| Education | 16,300 | 16,700 | 15,500 | -2.4 | 5.2 |
| Administration | 10,000 | 10,400 | 9,500 | -3.8 | 5.3 |
| | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,000 | 0.0 | 5.0 |

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

July and August 2002 with job losses occurring in *Construction & Mining* (100) and *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100) and job gains occurring over the same time period in *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100). The year-over-year data is quite different as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,100 jobs with job gains in *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100) outweighed by job losses in *Mining & Construction* (1,200), *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (600), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Component Manufacturing* (1,000), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200), and *Food & Kindred Products* (100) primarily *Canned, Cured & Frozen Foods* (100). The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries lost 200 jobs between July and August 2002. Job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Food Stores* (100), *Other Services* (200), and *Local Government Education* (400) outpaced job increases in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (200), *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Business Services* (100), and *Health Services* (100) to create the net decrease in the number of *Service-Producing Industry* jobs. Most of the job losses occurred in *Local Government Education*, which is expected during this month as local school districts close summer sessions for a break before the fall semester begins. From August 2001 to August 2002, there was an increase of 2,100 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Communication & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (300), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (200), *General Merchandise Stores* (300), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (100), *Health Services* (900) primarily *Hospitals* (700), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (400), *Other Services* (800), *Federal Government* (300), *State Government Education* (100), *Local Government Education* (500), and *Local Government Administration* (300) outpacing job losses in *Transportation* (200), *Food Stores* (300), *Business Services* (1,500), and *State Government Administration* (200).

SPECIAL TOPIC

Southwest Idaho School Update

The start of fall marks the beginning of school for the Treasure Valley students as summer vacations come to an end. The enrollment in elementary and secondary schools throughout the Treasure Valley has increased over the past year by 2.5 percent, or 2,475 students, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 3. Ada County showed the largest increase with total enrollment increasing by 1,548 students with Canyon County districts following with a 974-student increase over the previous year. Over

the decade, total student enrollment throughout the Treasure Valley is up 29.6 percent or 23,221 individuals. The trend of increasing enrollment is happening not just in the Treasure Valley, but throughout the state and the nation, and especially in the West. The U.S. Department of Education recently reported that the number of students in public schools will increase dramatically in the next few years in parts of the South and much of the West, worsening already overcrowded classrooms, substandard school buildings, and teacher shortages. Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, California, and Arizona are expected to have the largest increases in the next decade.

| Treasure Valley Table 3: Southwest Idaho School Enrollment | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | Enrollment | | | % Change | |
| | 91-92 | 00-01 | 01-02 | Decade 1991-2001 | Year 2000-2001 |
| Ada | 41,694 | 53,597 | 55,145 | 32.3% | 2.9% |
| Adams | 617 | 522 | 512 | -17.0% | -1.9% |
| Boise | 740 | 1,062 | 1,097 | 48.2% | 3.3% |
| Canyon | 19,154 | 25,616 | 26,590 | 38.8% | 3.8% |
| Elmore | 4,353 | 5,141 | 5,166 | 18.7% | 0.5% |
| Gem | 2,461 | 3,018 | 2,980 | 21.1% | -1.3% |
| Owyhee | 2,352 | 2,556 | 2,588 | 10.0% | 1.3% |
| Payette | 3,711 | 4,365 | 4,375 | 17.9% | 0.2% |
| Valley | 1,436 | 1,414 | 1,333 | -7.2% | -5.7% |
| Washington | 2,008 | 1,981 | 1,961 | -2.3% | -1.0% |
| Total | 78,526 | 99,272 | 101,747 | 29.6% | 2.5% |

Source: Idaho Department of Education

As the new school year started, the Meridian School District determined that more schools were needed. A bond was passed by 83 percent of voters in the district and over the next two years, Meridian will use the \$57.2 million to build three new elementary schools, a middle school, and an alternative high school in addition to making improvements to other facilities in the district.

Post-secondary Education in Treasure Valley. Boise State University, Albertson College of Idaho, Northwest Nazarene University, Lewis-Clark State College, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho were named among the best colleges in the nation, according to the *U.S. News and World Report's* 2003 college ranking.

The Boise State University West campus in Northeast Nampa held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the construction of the first building on the BSU West Campus. The \$3.4 million Technology and Entrepreneurial Center (TECenter) is the first building on the BSU West Campus. The 38,000-square-foot center is based on a plan by BSU, Idaho Small Business Development Center, and the U.S. Department of Commerce to help local entrepreneurs develop products and businesses by working with BSU resources and faculty. The TECenter is expected to open in early 2003.

Boise State University set a record enrollment in 2001 with 17,161 students. The expanding engineering program, satellite campuses, and increased Internet classes

at all locations have been factors in the university's growth. Boise State enrolled 17,714 students in fall 2002, which is a 3 percent increase over last year's record enrollment. This marks the seventh consecutive year that Boise State has increased fall enrollment significantly from the previous year to set a new state record.

Boise State officials announced that the school will raise admission standards. The new, more selective admissions policy offers the university a way to reconcile increases in enrollment and decreases in funding. Boise State also opened its new \$12.5 million student recreation center on the Boise campus in September.

Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) posted a 23 percent increase in freshman enrollment this year. The university enrolled 1,152 undergraduates for the fall semester, and 290 of those are freshmen.

NNU recently opened two business programs geared toward adult professionals in Boise; the MBA program is a 15-month business master's program and the STEP program is an accelerated undergraduate business degree, which began this fall. The classes are held in the basement of the C.W. Moore Plaza in downtown Boise. NNU announced that it expects to serve more than 11,000 people through a variety of programs this year, which is a significant increase over the estimated 7,500 students served last year.

Albertson College of Idaho (ACI) was ranked the 20th most wired small college in America, according to Yahoo!, and 6th in the nation for "Best Academic Bang for your Buck," according to Best 345 Colleges. Besides balancing the college's budget by 2004 and working on increasing student retention, the college has several other projects planned. These include adding new academic classes and majors, hiring more people for a variety of positions on campus, planning a fund-raising campaign, and constructing new buildings in "The Village," the college's new apartment-style dorms designed to keep upperclassmen on campus.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Jabil Circuit, Inc. announced in mid-September that it would close its Meridian manufacturing plant by the end of this year. More than 500 employees will be laid off as a result of the closure. Company officials cited performance issues as reason for the closure; another factor is that a majority of customers of Jabil's Meridian facility are in the weakening telecom market.
- Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center (St. Al's) released an expansion plan in mid-September, "Vision 2010: The Future of Healing." The \$208 million expansion plan includes a new, seven-story center at its current site on Curtis Road in Boise, which will include operating rooms that will use ro-

botics and new patient rooms. Also included will be outpatient centers in Eagle and Meridian. Ground-breaking for the \$11 million Saint Alphonsus Meridian Health Plaza outpatient care center took place in late September. It is scheduled to open in April and will include two operating rooms for outpatient surgery, an urgent care clinic, offices for family and internal medicine doctors, and radiology services including X-rays, mammography, and ultrasound.

- Horizon Air announced that it will offer a daily flight from Boise to Hailey for ski-season service. The once-daily round trip will start December 15, 2002, and continue through March 30, 2003. The new flight will increase air connections to the Wood River Valley, particularly from cities in Washington, Oregon, California, and the Midwest. The flight will depart Boise at 1:55 pm and arrive at Friedman Memorial Airport in Hailey at 2:35 pm. The return flight leaves at 4:00 pm and arrives in Boise at 4:40 pm. Horizon will operate a 37-seat Q200 aircraft on the route.
- Albertsons, Inc. opened its Westpark Technology Center in September. The multi-million dollar center houses the company's computer operations. About 70 people are employed at the center, located at 700 North Ancestor Place in Boise.
- The former Sav-on Drug store on Bogus Basin Road will be home to Crane Creek Market, which is scheduled to open in December. The new market will occupy two-thirds of the existing 26,000-square-foot building, and will feature specialty wine, beer, cheese, fresh produce, and meat departments. Bogus Basin Recreation Association Inc. (which will move from its current location across the street) and two additional retail outlets will occupy the remaining space in the building. The owners of the building have announced plans to build two additional buildings on the site, including a restaurant with outside seating.
- Consolidated Freightways (CF) announced in early September that it was going out of business. CF was one of the largest trucking companies in the nation, and nearly 15,500 workers worldwide are affected by the closure. Approximately 90 local jobs are affected by the announcement. The company stated that it did not have enough money to continue operations, causing the immediate shut down of operations.
- MicronPC announced in late August that it was awarded an \$800,000 contract with the Boise School District to provide service and support.
- Hampton Inn & Suites announced plans to build a new 101-room hotel near the Idaho Center in Nampa. The four-story hotel will be part of the Can-

yon Park development, and groundbreaking for the \$7.8 million hotel is scheduled for October. The hotel will be open in time for the July 2003 Snake River Stampede.

- Norco Inc., started construction of an \$8 million air-separation plant in Nampa in early summer 2002. The 10,000-square-foot facility will be located on Karcher Road east of the sugar factory, and is scheduled to open in November. About 3 full-time employees and 6 drivers will operate the plant.
- Construction started on the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho in mid-September. The \$3.6 million building will include a museum, lecture hall, conference room, gift shop, classrooms, computer lab, a teaching kitchen, and a bilingual library. The Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho will host cultural events and offer extensive job training and economic development programs.
- Other business news in the Boise City MSA includes: the American Zoo and Aquarium Association accredited Zoo Boise, which will allow the zoo more opportunities to acquire new animals; Bolo's closed its downtown Boise eatery in early September; Shabahang Persian Carpets plans to close its downtown Boise location this fall; Rocky Mountain Bagel Bakery closed all three Treasure Valley locations; the Red Feather Lounge will open in downtown Boise in October; Krispy Kreme will open its first Idaho store at the corner of Fairview and Eagle in late January; Four Seasons Travel merged with Harmon Travel in late September; Zions Bank expanded its downtown Boise office; construction began on Life's Doors Hospice and Life's Doors Home Care Solutions in Boise; DeMarcos announced plans to open a second Boise store in the Boise Towne Square Mall in mid-November; Washington Trust Bank announced plans to build a new branch at the corner of Glenwood and State in Boise; Mountain West Bank opened a new branch in Meridian; and Working Solutions and Workforce Essentials held its grand opening ceremony in Nampa.

Adams County

- The New Meadows' Shavers was sold to Leonard and Sharon Yancey during summer 2002, and the store was renamed the Meadows Valley Market. Most employees are still working at the store and kept the same benefits that they had at Shavers.

Gem County

- Ground was broken in late August for the new Gem County Jail. Construction is scheduled to be completed by summer 2003.

- A King's discount department store will be built at the intersection of Highways 19 and 52 in Emmett. The 14,000-square-foot building will be completed in 2003; the business is scheduled to open in May and will employ 14 full- and part-time people.
- Swing Scene in Emmett held a grand reopening with new owners Jeff and Sonja Radford and Dan and Joni Nevers. The restaurant now serves breakfast through dinner and offers catering as well. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Payette County

- Ground was broken for a new industrial park in New Plymouth in early September. Groundbreaking was held on the site located north of the railroad tracks off Ada Road where Governor Dirk Kempthorne presented the city with a check for \$245,000. The money, a grant provided by the Rural Development Initiative Program from the Idaho Department of Commerce, will be used for extending city services, including water and sewer, to the industrial park. One business, Noyes Apiaries Inc., will construct a honey-packing plant on the site that will create 28 jobs within two years of completion of the industrial park. The plant is scheduled to open in April 2003.
- Family 1st Chiropractic held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late August. Tomas McFie and his staff are located at 211 North Whitley in Fruitland.

Valley County

- Construction began on the WestRock resort development in Valley County in mid-August. Road and infrastructure work has started, along with work associated with the project's permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to alter wetlands, under the direction of Boise-based Washington Group International (WGI). WestRock also received a recommendation for approval from the Idaho Department of Water Resources to use 5.56 million gallons of groundwater per day from 11 wells. Persons opposed to the water rights have until September 30 to file for reconsideration; if there is no opposition, the water right will be approved.
- Whitetail Lodge in McCall announced the closure of its operation for the winter. It will reopen in Spring 2003. Twenty full-time and 20 part-time employees were affected by the closure.

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